

“The Christ of the Passion: ‘Hast Thou No Scar?’”

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James Denny: “I do not hesitate to say that the sense of debt to Christ is the most profound and pervasive of all emotions in the New Testament.” (*Death of Christ* 158)

Matthew 27:32—

- ▼ Name—_____
- ▼ Hometown—_____—(see Acts 6:9)
- ▼ Action—_____ by Romans to carry the criminal’s “*patibulum*” or _____.

Luke 23:26—

- ▼ Activity—_____ from out of the country
- ▼ Manner of conscription—_____, hence not voluntary
- ▼ Place in procession—_____ Jesus

Mark 15:21—

- ▼ Social status—_____
- ▼ Children—_____ and _____ (see Ro 16:13)

John 19:16-18—

- ▼ “The crowd that followed the Saviour saw His weak and staggering steps, but they manifested no compassion. They taunted and reviled Him because He could not carry the heavy cross. *Again* the burden was laid upon Him, and *again* He fell fainting to the ground. His persecutors saw that it was impossible for Him to carry His burden farther.” (*Desire of Ages* 742, emphasis supplied)

Desire of Ages: “[Simon] stops in astonishment at the scene; and *as he expresses his compassion*, they seize him and place the cross upon his shoulders. *Simon had heard of Jesus*. His sons were believers in the Saviour, but he himself was not a disciple. The bearing of the cross to Calvary was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence. *It led him to take upon himself the cross of Christ from choice, and ever cheerfully stand beneath its burden.*” (742, emphasis supplied)

“Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free?

No, there’s a cross for everyone, And there’s a cross for me.”

☞ Jesus: “If anyone of you would come after me, you must deny yourself, take up your cross *daily* and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34-37; Luke 9:23)

▼ *What is this cross he calls me to bear behind him?*

▼ *You have to _____ it.*

▼ John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*: “Self-denial is not denying to ourselves luxuries such as chocolates, cakes, cigarettes and cocktails (though it may include this); it is actually denying or disowning ourselves, renouncing our supposed right to go our own way. ‘To deny oneself is . . . to turn away from the idolatry of self-centeredness.’” (279)

▼ Terry Wardle, *The Transforming Path*: “The Christian life brings enormous blessing. . . . But Jesus never once hid the fact that the Christian life would be demanding and costly.” (139)

☞ *If I’m not paying much of a cost these days, am I really denying myself and carrying any cross at all for Jesus?*

“No Scar”

Has thou no scar?
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star,
Has thou no scar?

Has thou no wound?
Yet I was wounded by the archers, spent,
Leaned Me against a tree to die; and rent
By ravening beasts that encompassed Me, I swooned:
Has thou no wound?

No wound? no scar?
Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,
And pierced are the feet that follow Me;
But thine are whole: can he have followed far
Who has no wound nor scar?

—Amy Carmichael, Christian missionary to India